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Washington, D. C. 20505

NIC 01332-85

Dr. Thomas J. Welch
Executive Secretary
Presidential Chemical Warfare Review
Commission
Washington, D. C.

12 MAR 1985

Dear Dr. Welch:

Thank you for your letter of 7 March 1985 inviting me on behalf of Ambassador Stoessel to introduce the Intelligence Community's day of briefings to the Commission on Wednesday, 13 March.

I have reviewed the ambitious schedule of the Commission and am impressed by the comprehensiveness of the treatment of this important issue. Retaliation in kind has been a prime factor in consideration of the use of chemical warfare since World War I, and the concern for chemical escalation was a principal deterrent of the use of chemical weapons by all sides during World War II. Given the Soviet Union's chemical warfare capability as well as the increasing propensity of developing countries to acquire chemical warfare agents and weapons, the review by the Commission is timely and of great importance to US national security policy.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the threat briefing for the Commission because of prior commitments. However, I would like to designate David Low, National Intelligence Officer at Large, as my personal representative for the briefings. Mr. Low is the official responsible to me for coordinating the Intelligence Community's activities relating to chemical and biological warfare.

I look forward with great interest to the final report of the Commission.

Sincerely,

W. J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence



PRESIDENT'S CHEMICAL WARFARE REVIEW COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

7 March 1985

Honorable William Casey
Director, The Central Intelligence Agency

Dear Mr. Casey:

The President's Chemical Warfare Review Commission was established by Executive Order on 28 January 1985. The Commission's mission is to assess this Nation's chemical warfare posture and evaluate the adequacy of our chemical warfare deterrence by conducting a sequential examination of three basic issues.

The first task will be to determine whether the United States should continue to have a chemical retaliatory capability. If the Commission concludes that we should have a retaliatory capability, their second task will be to determine whether the current US chemical stockpile is sufficient for that purpose. Finally, if the Commission finds that the current stockpile is, or is soon to become inadequate, they will examine alternatives and recommend a suitable course to reach the desired goal developed in the first two phases of the study.

On behalf of the Commission chairman, Ambassador Walter Stoessel, Jr., I wish to extend an invitation to you to present a ten-minute Review and Perspective on the Threat We Face, opening the Intelligence Community's day of briefings to the Commission. This session will be held on March 13, at 8:30 AM, in room 3E267, the Pentagon.

The issues to be addressed by the Commission are vitally important to the United States and deserve the most thoughtful and balanced review. I believe the perspective you can share with the Commission members is central to their deliberations.

I realize that this is short notice. However, I hope that your schedule allows you to participate in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



THOMAS J. WELCH
Executive Secretary